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URBAN DISTRICT  
OF  
KNOTTINGLEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

**1950**

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U R B A N   D I S T R I C T .

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K N O T T I N G L E Y

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

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M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.



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Medical Officer's Section,  
Health Department,  
9, Horsefair,  
Pontefract.

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a Report on the Health and Health Services of the Urban District during the year 1950.

The Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies is complementary to this Report.

For your information certain details of the personal health services administered by the County Council are included.

The compilation of his Annual Report is a fitting time for the Medical Officer of Health to sit back and take stock. Is he providing a range of personal health services that the public need? Are additional services called for? Are those already available being used as they should by the public? Are they unnecessarily expensive? Are the standards of all those things which go to make up what we call "environmental hygiene" satisfactory?

The Medical Officer in the West Riding is in some ways in a fortunate position. Not only is he responsible to his Local Authority for the general supervision of their environmental services, but he is also responsible as Divisional Medical Officer to the Local Health Authority for the administration of the personal health services in the area. These two appointments are separate and distinct, yet they are united by a common aim, improvement in the health and environment both of the individual and of the local community.





You will see from the Sanitary Inspector's report that 106 new houses were built during the year. In spite of all your Authority is doing in the matter it seems that the housing problem will be with us for many years to come, and the present rate of building is not sufficient to keep pace with the increase in the demand.

The year has produced less new legislation than we have become accustomed to during the past few years, but there has been some tightening up of the law relating to milk supplies, and we have also gained powers giving us improved control over the handling of food.

In the personal health services we have much to offer the public, and the people have shown themselves abundantly eager to take advantage of all the facilities offered. To the expectant mother we can offer care and supervision during her pregnancy, her confinement and afterwards. Her labour will be made easier by modern drugs and by gas and air analgesia. The welfare of the infant during its first year of life is our especial care. It will be visited in its home by the Health Visitor and encouraged to come to the nearest Child Welfare Clinic, where all necessary help and advice will be given. Any necessary additional foods will be supplied at very reasonable prices. Every effort will be made to have it immunised against diphtheria before completing its first year of life. This can be carried out either at the clinic or by its family practitioner. This supervision is maintained during the toddler stage, until the child finally enters school when it comes under the care of the School Medical Services, whose officers are those to whom it is already accustomed.

While at school it will receive regular routine medical examinations, the number depending on its need. Specialist services are offered to children in need of eye treatment, ear, nose and throat treatment, and orthopaedic treatment. An ultra violet light session is available at Pontefract to all children who require it.



The care of the child, however, is the responsibility of many others than members of the Health Department, and it has been our aim to work as closely as possible in friendly co-operation with the parent, and the teacher, and in the less fortunate cases with the Welfare Department, the Children's Department, the N.S.P.C.C. and the Probation Officer. All of these bodies can be of great help to one another in the handling of a particular case.

We have too responsibilities for the patient admitted to and discharged from hospital. A close liaison is being built up between the Health Visiting Staff and the Welfare Staff of the hospital. We have our own Home Nursing Services which care for the patient discharged from hospital under the supervision of the family doctor. Home Helps are available in cases of need, and the fees charged are according to income.

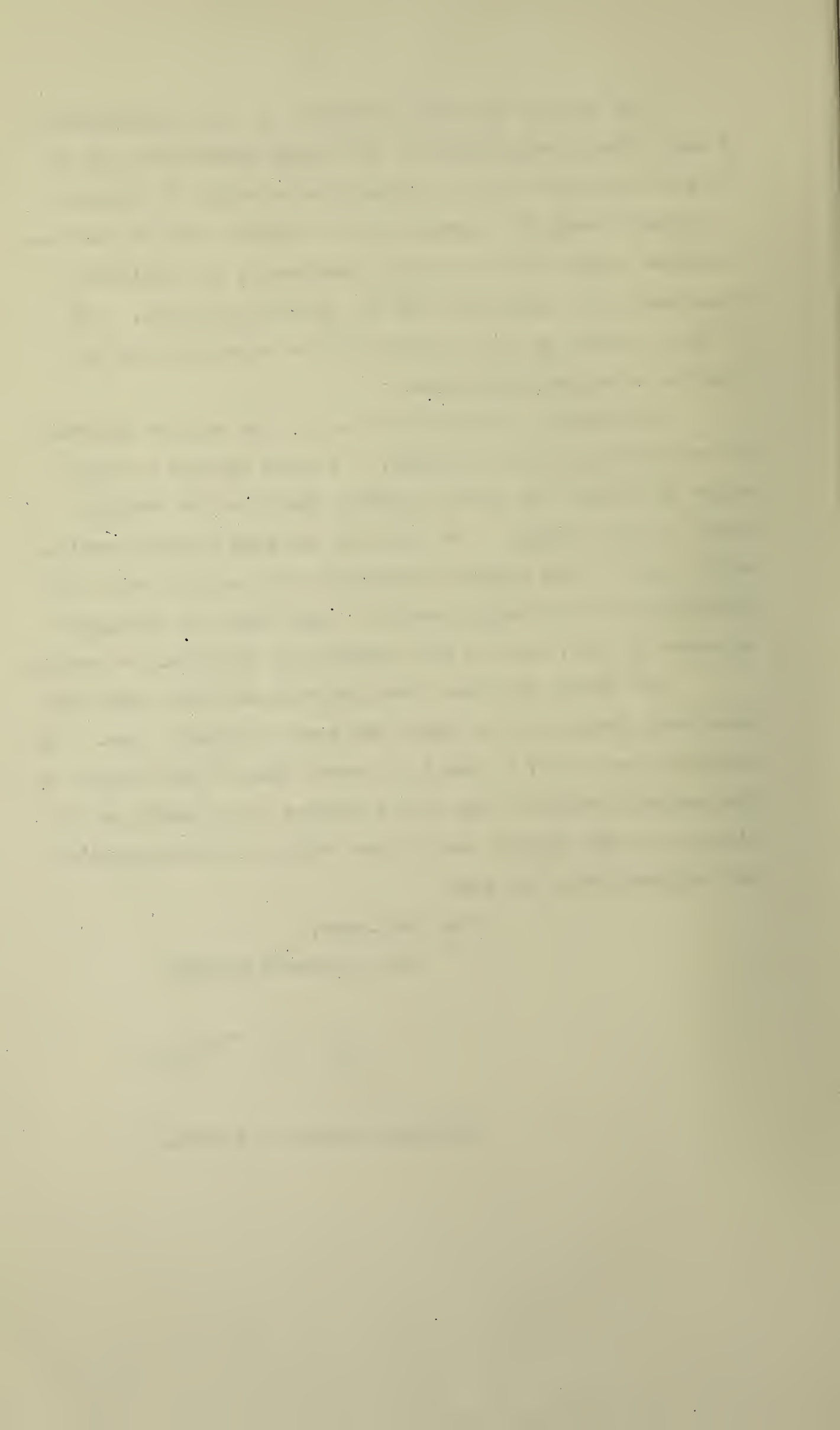
Our Health Services, then are wide in their scope and make heavy demands on the staff who have to operate them. In concluding my report I cannot do better than to pay tribute to the Sanitary Inspector and to all members of my staff, in the clinics, in the "field", and in the office, for their loyalty and support during the year.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

*John F. Fraser*

Medical Officer of Health.



P A R T   O N E

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District: 2,837 acres

Population, mid-year, Registrar-General's estimate: 9,841

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1950: 2,810

Rateable value: 1950 - £42,280. 1949 - £41,038.

Product of penny rate: 1950 - £157.8.9d. 1949 - £157.8.9d.

These figures show a population increase of 116.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1949.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	90 (80)	80 (94)	170 (174)
Illegitimate	4 ( 6)	5 ( 6)	9 ( 12)
Total	94 (86)	85(100)	179 (186)

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 18.19 (19.13)

Percentage of illegitimate live births: 5.03 (6.45)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1 (-)	1(1)	2 (1)
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1 (-)	1(1)	2 (1)

Rate per 1,000 total(live and still births): 11.1 (5.3)

Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population: 0.20 (0.103)

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All age groups	61 (71)	40 (50)	101 (121)
<u>Infants under 1 Year</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2 (3)	2 (3)	4 (6)
Illegitimate	1 (1)	1 (-)	2 (1)
Total	3 (4)	3 (3)	6 (7)

Maternal Deaths. NIL (NIL)



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# Death Rates.

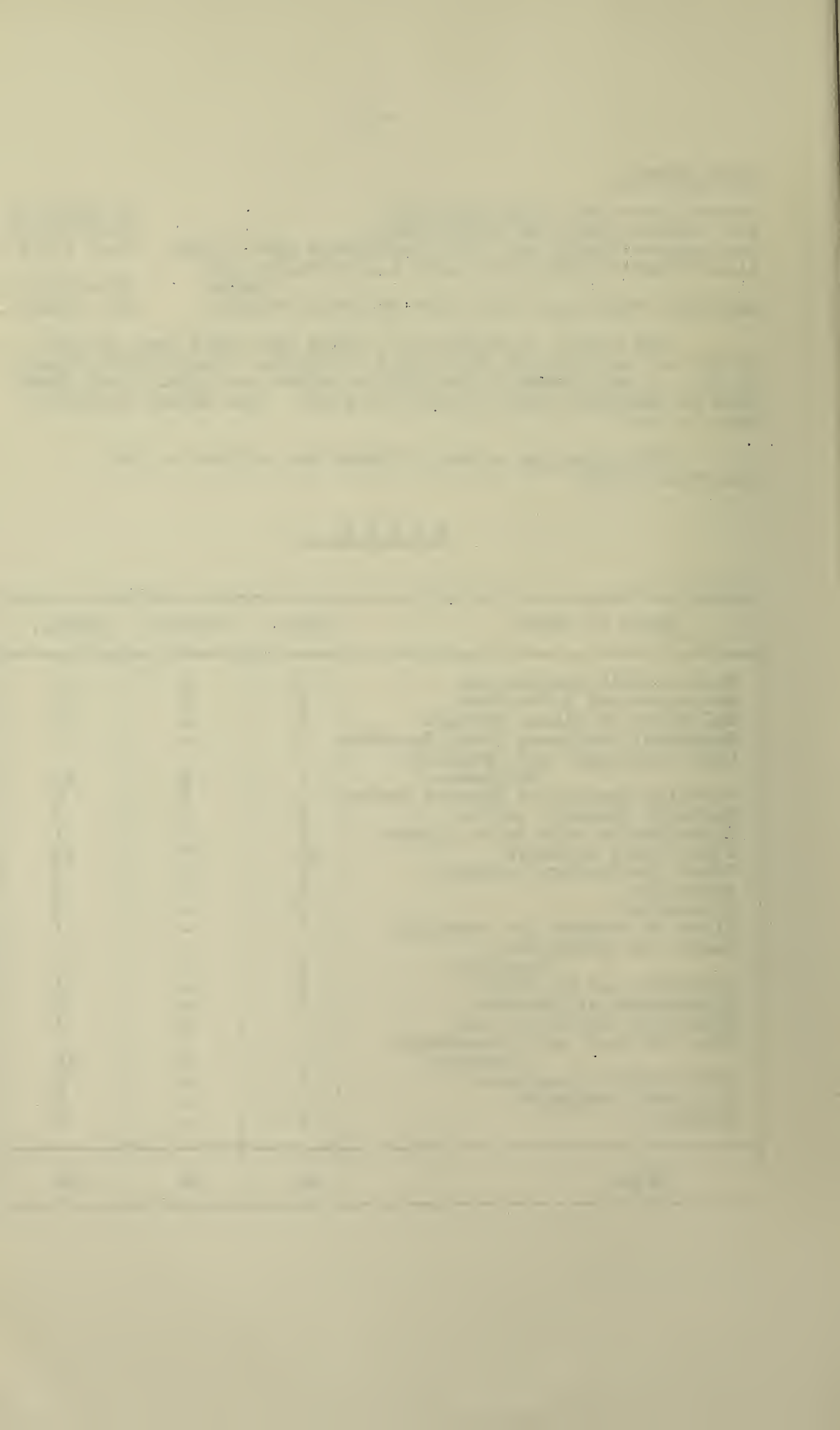
General rate per 1,000 population	10.26(12.4)
All infants per 1,000 live births	33.52(37.6)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.5 (34.5)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	222.2(83.3)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	NIL (NIL)

The number of births is 7 fewer than last year and the birth rate has dropped from 19.13 to 18.19. Deaths have fallen by 20. I am pleased to be able to report once again that there were no maternal deaths during the year. The Infant mortality rate is 33.5.

The principal causes of death are set out in the following Table.

T A B L E I

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	2	5
Meningococcal Infections	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	-	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	6	12
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	5	8
Coronary Disease, Angina	6	1	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Diseases	14	10	24
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2	3
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	4	-	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	2	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	7	16
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	2	3	5
Suicide	1	-	1
Total	61	40	101





Infant Mortality.

The following Table gives causes of infant deaths during 1950, classified into age groups.

T A B L E    II

Cause of Death.	Age Groups								All ages under 1 yr		
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	1-3 mth	3-6 mth	6-9 mth	9-12 mth.	M.	F.	Tot
Prematurity	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Intra cranial haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Acute otitis media	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	1	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	3	3	6

The following Table gives a general survey of infant deaths throughout the year.

T A B L E    III

Cause of Death.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastro-enteritis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intra cranial haemorrhage	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute otitis media	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

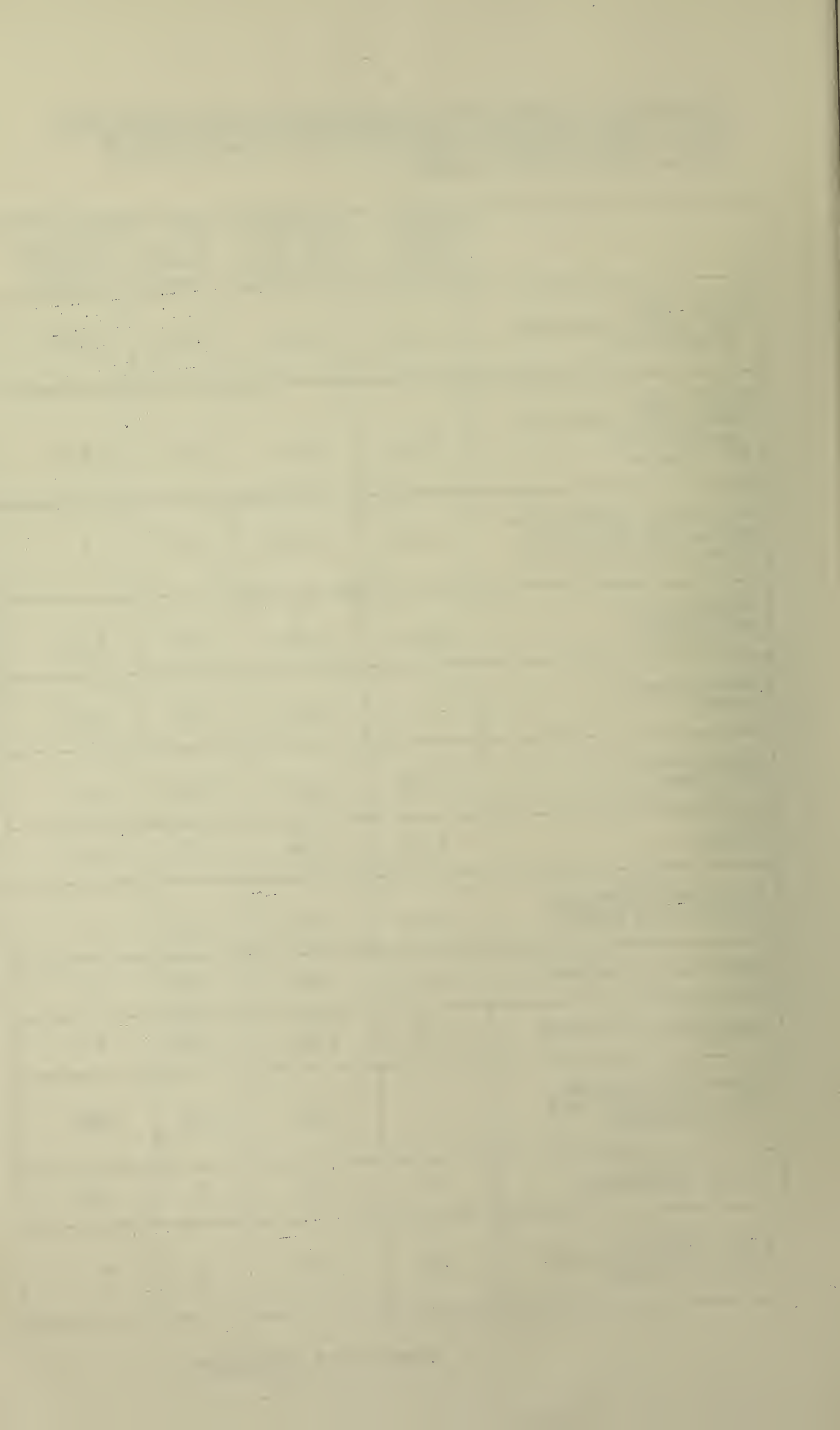
Total    -    6



COMPARISON OF KNOTTINGLEY VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING URBAN DISTRICTS. THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY, AND ENGLAND & WALES.

	Knott- ingley Urban District	Aggregate West Rid- ing Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (pro- visional figures).
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	18.2	15.9	16.3	15.8
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) All Causes.	10.3	12.4	11.8	11.6
Infective & Para. Dis. excl. Tub. but incl. Syph. and other V.D.	0.10	0.10	0.10	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory	0.51	0.26	0.26	0.32
Tuberculosis Other	-	0.04	0.04	0.04
Tuberculosis All Forms	0.51	0.30	0.30	0.36
Cancer	1.63	1.94	1.83	1.99
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	0.81	1.70	1.59	*
Heart and Circulatory	3.56	4.66	4.39	*
Respiratory Diseases	0.71	1.26	1.18	*
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births)	-	0.95	0.98	0.86
Infant Mortality	34	33	35	30
Still Births (per 1,000 live and still births)	11	24	24	*

\* figures not available.



P A R T    T W O

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the prevalence of infectious diseases throughout the year.

T A B L E    V

	Jan/ Mar	Apr/ Jun	Jul/ Sep	Oct/ Dec	Total	Deaths	No. of cases admitted to hospital.
Scarlet Fever	3	10	4	6	23	-	22
Whooping Cough	4	52	35	2	93	-	-
Measles	3	3	6	3	15	-	-
Pneumonia	11	3	1	1	16	3	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
	21	68	47	13	149	3	23

Certain of the above figures call for comment.

The death return shows one death from Meningococcal infection - this was a transferred death from Pontefract General Infirmary.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of scarlet fever reported during the year showed appreciable reduction on those for last year. Cases, on the whole, are mild in character.

Whooping Cough.

The incidence of whooping cough was roughly the same as last year. We are still awaiting approval of the Ministry of Health to whooping cough vaccine. There is conclusive evidence that three types of whooping cough vaccine give a definite degree of protection against the disease. The best of these is not yet available in this country, but it is felt that vaccination should be made readily available, using such material as we have, to babies under the age of one year.

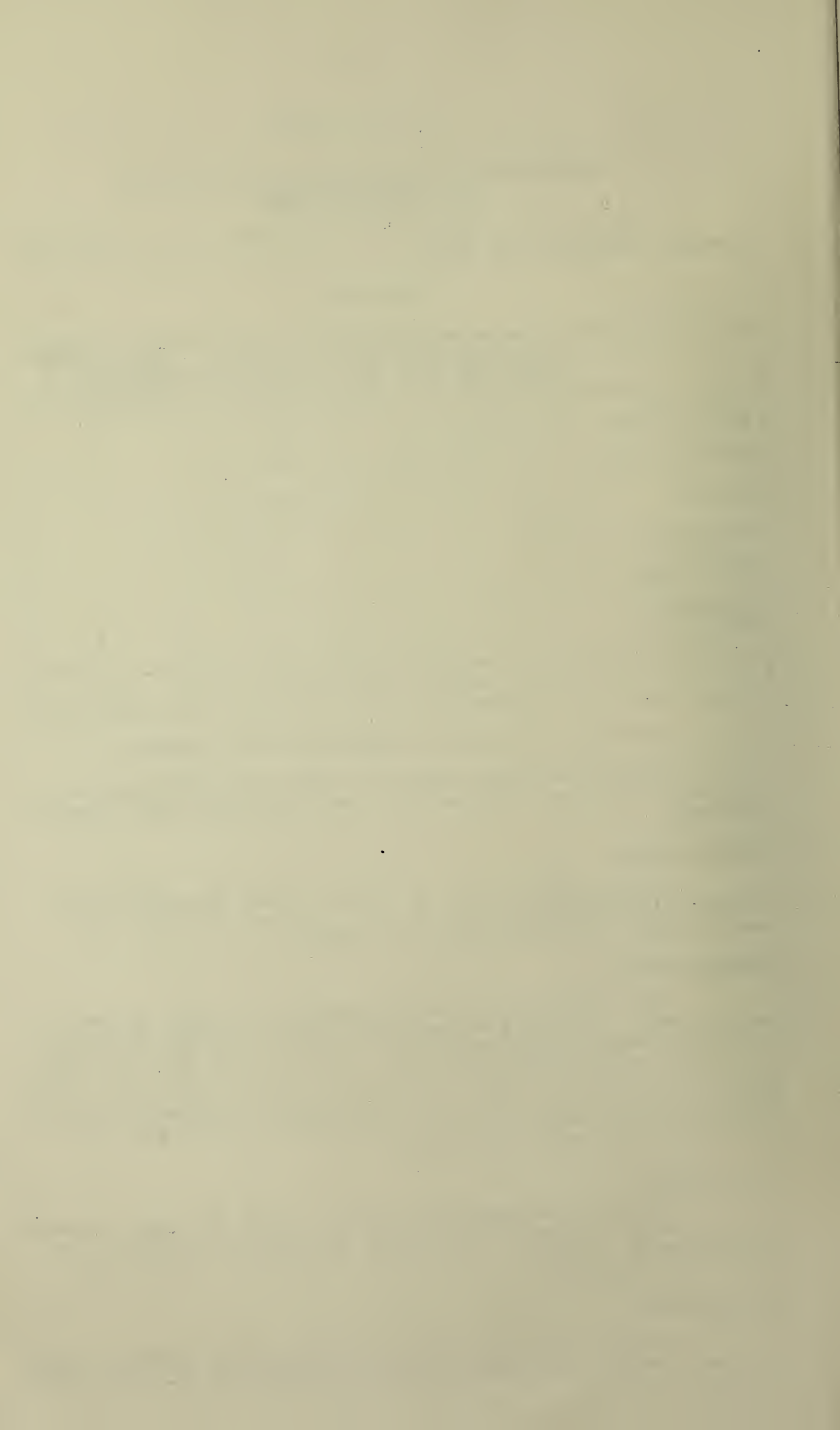
Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year. Seventy children under the age of five years, and one child over the age of five years, received a full course of primary immunisation against the disease.

Poliomyelitis.

No case of poliomyelitis occurred in the district during the year, despite the prevalence of the disease in the West Riding.





TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of tuberculous persons.

T A B L E VI

Number of cases in Register:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total in Register
	M	F	M	F	
At the commencement of 1950	27	19	6	14	66
Notified for the first time during 1950	1	3	-	1	5
Removed during 1950	4	3	-	-	7
At the end of 1950	24	19	6	15	64

The reasons for removal of cases from the register are given in the following Table.

T A B L E VII

Entries relating to:-	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Persons who have died	4	3	-	-	7
Persons who have recovered	-	-	-	-	-
Revision of diagnosis	-	-	-	-	-
	4	3	-	-	7

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified according to age, sex and site of the disease.

T A B L E VIII

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Under 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Under 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 55	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Under 65	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
Over 65	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	1	3	-	1	4	3	-	-





P A R T   T H R E E

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics were held throughout the year as follows.

Child Welfare Clinics.

Chapel Street, Knottingley. Monday at 1.30 p.m.  
Average attendance 27.

Wesleyan Chapel, Fishergate, Ferrybridge. Wednesday, at 1.30 p.m. Average attendance 35.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Chapel Street School, Knottingley. 1st and 3rd Thursday and 2nd and 4th Tuesday, at 1.30 p.m. Average attendance 15 mothers.

Wesleyan Chapel, Fishergate, Ferrybridge. 1st and 3rd Tuesday, at 1.30 p.m. Average attendance 12 mothers.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price (free in necessitous cases) to all women attending the clinics.

Ostermilk (Nos. 1 & 2)	Bemax
Trufood	Virol
Cow & Gate	Virolax
Ovaltine	Farex
Glucodin	Scotts Baby Cereal
Horlicks	Robinson's Groats
Minadex	Colact
Robrex	

The following were distributed free of charge:-

I.C.D. Tablets  
Ferrous Sulphate Tablets  
Viteolin Tablets  
A & D Liquid  
Vitamin 'C'

During the year 5 women were sent to Castleford Maternity Home; 16 to Leeds Maternity Hospital; 2 to Wakefield General Hospital; 9 to Northgate Lodge Hospital, Pontefract; 22 to Walton Hall Maternity Home; 2 to Hazlewood Maternity Home; 23 to Manygates Maternity Hospital, Wakefield; and 1 to St. James's Hospital, Leeds.

For domiciliary confinements there were three midwives in operation, all of whom possess cars.

Gas and Air Analgesia has been welcomed by the mothers, and full use has been made of it. Another powerful weapon for the reduction of the pain of childbirth was made available to midwives during the year in the form of the drug pethedine.

The following analysis of births occurring during 1950, adjusted by transferred notifications, indicates how the various maternity services and institutions were used.

1. No. of births occurring in the district during 1950.

<u>Domiciliary.</u>	<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	118	1	119



2. <u>Outward Transfers.</u>	<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>
	3	-	3
3. <u>Inward Transfers.</u>	64	1	65

Walton Hall Maternity Home	22
Leeds Maternity Hospital	16
Northgate Lodge Hospital, Pontefract	9
Castleford Maternity Home	5
Manygates Maternity Hospital, Wakefield	3
Four Gables Nursing Home	1
Fairfield Nursing Home	1
St. James's Hospital, Leeds	1
Hazlewood Maternity Home	2
Wakefield General Hospital	2
Private Nursing Homes	2
Private address	1
	<hr/> 65 <hr/>

Total Number of Knottingley Births: 181

#### Care of the Premature Infant.

Six premature infants were notified during the year. In each case a special investigation was made and help given as required. In hospital cases there was close liaison between hospitals and Authorities.

A special cot and other equipment is held in the ambulance depot at Pontefract and is instantly available on call by a general practitioner or midwife. The equipment is carried to the patient's house by ambulance. In addition the services of a specially trained midwife are available.

### P A R T F O U R

#### SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Routine school medical inspections were carried out in the Knottingley schools during the year.

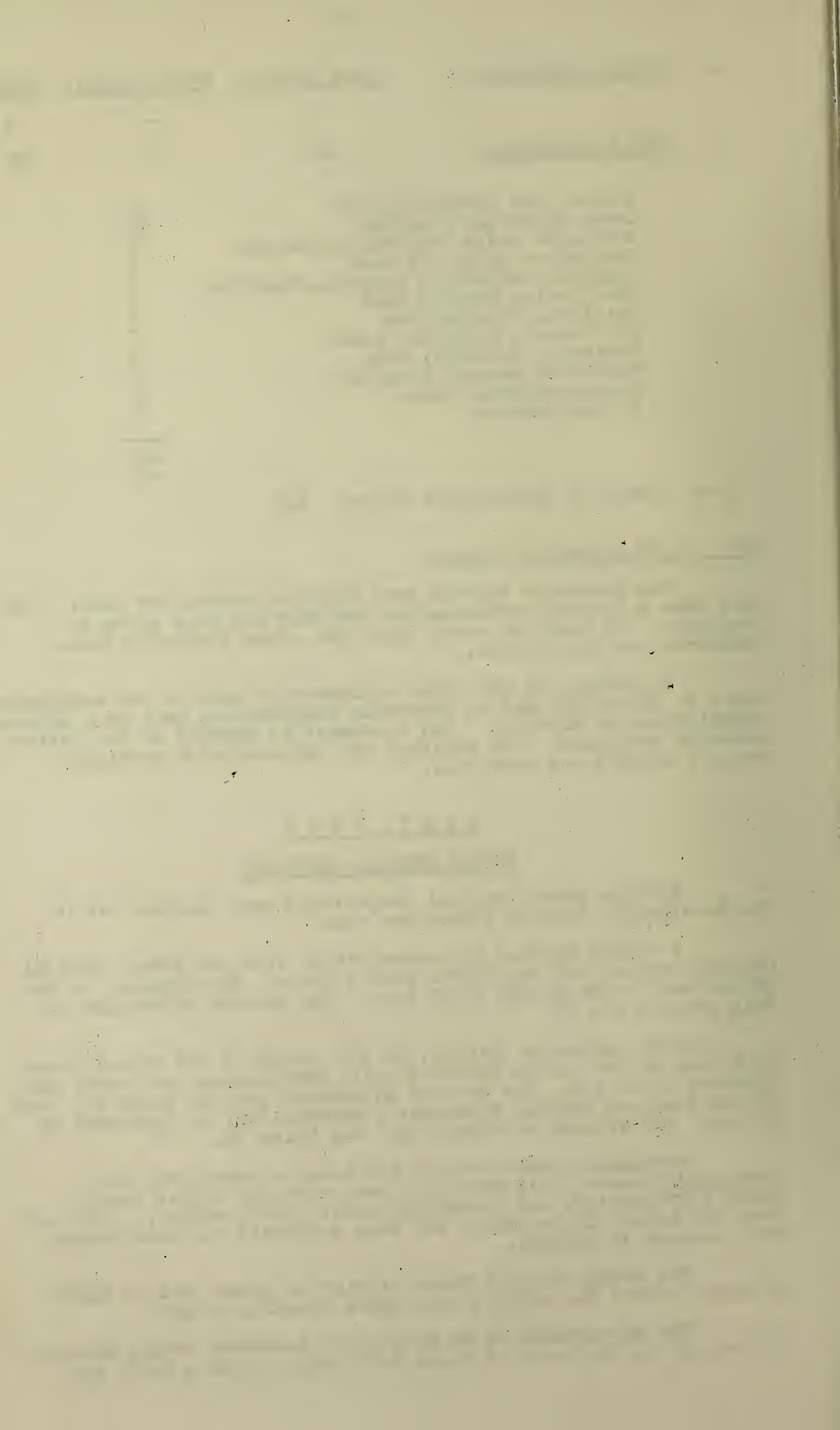
A clinic session for consultation with the School Medical Officer was held at the Chapel Street School, Knottingley, on the second and fourth Monday at 10 a.m. The average attendance for this session was 32.

Minor Ailments Clinics, in the charge of the School Nurse, were held at the Chapel Street School, Knottingley, on Monday and Thursday at 10 a.m., the average attendance per day being 14; and at the Wesleyan Chapel, Fishergate, Ferrybridge, on Wednesday at 10 a.m., the average attendance per day being 11.

Specialist consultations are held in Pontefract for Orthopaedic cases (held monthly), ear, nose and throat cases (held fortnightly), and ophthalmic cases (held weekly). The ear, nose and throat clinics which had been suspended for nine months were resumed in January.

The demand for all these clinics is great, and in spite of every effort the waiting list grows steadily larger.

The appointment of an additional Assistant County Medical Officer to the Division of which Knottingley forms a part, has





considerably eased the burden on the school medical service, and regular annual inspections will now be possible.

## P A R T F I V E.

### HOME NURSING

The demand for the Home Nursing Service has continued to increase. During the last three years the number of visits made has almost doubled. During 1950 153 cases were nursed and 3,646 visits made.

## P A R T S I X.

### CARE AND AFTER CARE.

Much good work has been done under this heading during the year. A Health Visitor for Pontefract visited the Pontefract General Infirmary daily, and by maintaining close co-operation with her colleagues in Knottingley, she has been able on the one hand to furnish background histories of patients where such information was of importance, and on the other hand she has given early information of the discharge of patients from hospital whom the personal health services might assist.

### Home Helps.

The demand for the Home Help Service has been maintained. An increase in the permitted establishment of Home Helps has made their supply somewhat easier.

## P A R T S E V E N.

### MENTAL HEALTH.

Mental Health is a responsibility of a Sub-Committee of the County Council. Work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 and 1930, has been undertaken by a Duly Authorised Officer living in Pontefract. He is Mr. R.S.H. Battye, of 27 Grove Lea Crescent, Pontefract. His telephone number is Pontefract 813. We have had one Mental Deficiency Social Worker, Miss Simons, for work under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

## P A R T E I G H T.

### AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The Ambulance Service in the district is now operated by the County Council, and its administration is the responsibility of the County Ambulance Officer.

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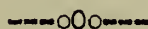


KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

1950







Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to submit to you my fourth annual report on the sanitary administration in this district.

As in all years since the war the housing problem is as great as ever and it appears that for many years to come this "shadow of the wolf" will account for a great deal of my time and work.

Gradually the few privy middens that are left in the district are disappearing and are being replaced by modern closets. There is, however, still great scope for improvement in the district as in numerous places there still exists a very poor type of water closet.

All other work of the department has progressed as much as possible, though owing to the limited time available to the duties of this department by a part-time clerk I find that more of my time than is desirable is having to be spent on office duties. I have made the Council acquainted with this position over the last four years and I would again like to stress that a full-time clerk is not only desirable but a necessity for the smooth running of the department.

I would like to thank all Members and Officials who, by their interest, consideration and support, have helped to make the running of the department as successful as possible.

The details of the work carried out under the various headings are as follows:-

Sanitary Circumstances

1. General Sanitation and Abatement of Nuisances

Both complaints which have been reported to this department and nuisances discovered during the course of my duties, have had the earliest possible attention. As in previous years, it has been possible in many cases to abate many nuisances by having an informal interview with the person or people concerned. In such cases a record is not kept as to visits etc.

Complaints which have necessitated informal or formal action are classified as follows:-

Defective sink waste pipes.....	28
Choked drains.....	37
Defective drains.....	4
Defective covers to inspection chambers.....	18
Defective ashpits.....	3
Defective dustbins.....	20
Defective sinks.....	2
Defective waterclosets.....	18
Defective ovens and flues.....	19
Defective wall and ceiling plaster.....	39
Defective roofs.....	11
Defective sashcords.....	7
Defective eaves gutters and fall pipes.....	22
Water in cellars.....	-
Defective steps.....	2
Defective floors.....	4
Defective doors.....	5
Defective cooking ranges.....	7
Damp walls.....	17
Defective windows.....	18
Accumulations and other nuisances.....	102

Total 383



Complaints from other districts, namely offensive odours from the Yorkshire Tar Distillers and emission of grit from the Power Station chimneys, Ferrybridge, have once again had to be dealt with. Following the complaints, joint inspections with the Osgoldcross Sanitary Inspector took place. In the case of the Yorkshire Tar Distillers an Inspector under the Alkali etc. Works Regulation Act, 1906 was called in to investigate, without success. As I have previously recorded in my annual report I am of the opinion that satisfactory solutions to the problems are a long way off in view of the fact that the most modern plant is being used in both cases.

## 2. Water Supplies

The total number of dwelling houses in the district which are now on the public supply, is 2,830, which means that there are only a few now left in the district which are unable to use the town's supply.

The water itself, which is received in bulk from Pontefract has been both satisfactory in quality and quantity. There have been times, however, when it has been necessary to use water sparingly. The only extension to the supply this year has been the development of Council House Estates and in a few cases the erection of private dwellings.

## 3. Rodent Control

Throughout the year we have continued to carry out the duties imposed upon us by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, to the best of our abilities. Private dwellings are treated free of charge and business premises are charged for. The Act came into force on the 31st March this year and repealed the former legislation, i.e. The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

There is now an obligation on the Local Authority, who are directly vested with the work, to see that its district is kept free from infestation. Work done under the Act must be to the satisfaction of the Local Authority.

The operative engaged upon this work is only part-time and a suggestion from a Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Inspector that he be employed full-time was rejected on the grounds that the work was being done satisfactorily. Difficulty does, however, arise during holiday periods and when his other duties are of a more urgent nature than rodent control.

The following table tabulates the amount of work carried out in regard to surface infestations during the year:-

Degree of Infestation	Infestations Cleared	No. of these infestations cleared after 1, 2, 3 or 4 treatments				Total Number of treatments given
		1	2	3	4	
MAJOR (Rat population between 20-200)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
MINOR (under 20)	28	21	6	1	Nil	36
TOTALS	28	21	6	1	Nil	36

With regard to sewer treatments, a difference of opinion has existed with the Ministry for a long time. It is my contention that certain areas in the district where the land is low lying and the sewers have little fall resulting in the sewers running full, should be exempt from sewer treatments. The Ministry have disagreed and have made us carry out the required 10% tests. As will be seen from the following table the July test, which was in such an area, was a washout due to the very fact which I had emphasised. I am still awaiting the Ministry's further deliberations on the point.



No. of Manholes on System	Particulars of Test			Particulars of Treatment					Classification
	Month	Tested	Showing takes	Month	Pre-baited	Complete takes	Part takes	Poison Baited	
120	July	16	Washed out	Jan.	9	5	4	9	Small and Limited

#### 4. Factories, Workplaces and Shops

Periodical factory and shops inspections have been carried out during the year. There is little to report in the case of factories except that new factories have been inspected and registered. We have now 42 on our register. Minor complaints have been dealt with promptly and in all cases the H. M. Factories Inspector has been notified of the results. More attention has been given to the 114 shops in the district which are concerned with the handling and wrapping of food. Improvements have been effected but to protect the public there are still a great many improvements which could take place and I am hopeful that some may be done despite the lack of legislation in these matters.

#### 5. Disinfestation

This district seems as if it is becoming an ideal place for the breeding and rearing of cockroaches and ants. We have had numerous complaints throughout the year both in regard to Council property and private property. Owing to the habits of these insects it is often difficult to effect a complete eradication and thus a reoccurrence of the infestation occurs. Modern synthetic insecticides have proved to have a greater effect than the now obsolete methods of traps, poison baits and insecticidal powders. Even in this "field" though I am of the opinion that not enough acknowledgement is given to the amount of nuisance caused by these insects and that eventually, when this fact is realised, more attention will be given to their eradication.

Very few infestations by bed bugs have occurred this year and I have found that these pests are much easier to control than other less notorious insects. In no cases this year has it been necessary to take Statutory action.

Treatments on the Council's tips are still carried out against crickets but, despite this, complaints are still received from neighbouring householders. We are doing our utmost to minimise these complaints but, with the pressure of work and the limited labouring staff, it is not always possible to carry out this work as effectively as one would wish.

#### 6. Privy Accommodation

As mentioned previously we are endeavouring to convert all possible privies to the water carriage system. Unfortunately we have only been able to convert two this year. However, with proposals of sewer extensions more conversions should be carried out in the ensuing year.

Eventually we shall reach the stage when all possible privies have been converted. When this time comes I am hopeful of preparing a report for the Council on a Survey of types of water closets in the district as we have many which are obsolete and inefficient. Earnest consideration should then be given to the modernisation of these types.

#### 7. Public Cleansing

##### (a) Collection

The service has been well maintained throughout the year, dealing jointly with the collection of house and trade refuse. As usual, during holiday periods and mechanical breakdowns, there have been complaints but these have been dealt with as soon as possible.

We were fortunate at the beginning of the year to have a man trained as a spare driver. Having passed his driving test the difficulty in holiday periods should be less acute.



Despite the heavy building programme we have still maintained a regular weekly collection. I attribute this to the foresight of the Council in purchasing a new 5 ton Austin Reguse Waggon last year. Although the building of new houses will continue we shall be able to keep on top of the work if progress is made in connecting cesspools to new sewer extensions. This will allow more time to be spent on refuse collection by the dual purpose waggon.

Due to the fact that we have no weigh-bridge and that the weight of household refuse fluctuates every season in relation to the volume collected, it is difficult to place before you reliable figures of tonnage collected and the cost.

Allowing that an average of two tons is collected each load the following table shows the amount collected during the year and the cost of collection per ton of refuse. The total estimated cost of collection for the full year being £2,707.

TONNAGE OF REFUSE COLLECTED EACH MONTH											
Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
230	212	240	261	208	204	140	268	212	228	216	228
Estimated total tonnage for the year							2,602				
Average weight per 1,000 of population per day							15 cwts.				
Estimated average cost per ton							£1. 0s. 9d.				
<u>Note:</u> The above estimated cost also includes the cost of disposal.											

#### (b) Disposal

The only place of disposal is the controlled tip at Hill Top. We are gradually reclaiming the old quarry but it will be a few years yet before the full project is completed. The main difficulty we face is the enormous amount of garden refuse encountered during the summer months. This type of refuse is not only an unsatisfactory tip media from a fire danger view, but it also encourages the breeding of vermin and insects. We do endeavour to burn as much as possible, the rest is buried as quickly as possible.

The following table shows the work done by the department in the field of public cleansing:-

Month	No. of Ashpits	Loads from Ashpits	No. of Cesspools	Loads from Cesspools	No. of Loads from Dustbins	Miles run by EWU 411	Miles run by HYG 69
Jan.	27	13	67	164	115	682	494
Feb.	39	19	52	187	106	581	442
Mar.	41	22	47	152	120	583	491
Apl.	13	6	61	177	108	614	453
May	22	11	62	190	104	656	494
June	34	21	65	193	102	681	453
July	24	10	42	124	70	478	445
Aug.	21	11	58	192	134	640	333
Sept.	30	12	55	175	106	634	445
Oct.	37	18	67	215	114	707	453
Nov.	31	13	59	193	108	557	468
Dec.	29	14	57	178	114	496	470
Totals	348	170	692	2140	1301	7309	5441



## HOUSING

### 1. General Remarks

Within the limits allowed by the Ministry new houses continued to be erected during the year. These were made up as follows:-

By the Council.....	90
By Private Enterprise.....	16
Total	<u>106</u>

Despite the rate of progress the housing application list still appears formidable. The rate of overcrowding continues to develop owing to increases in families and further marriages.

Satisfactory housing is fundamental to healthy living and much has been done to improve housing standards. Much remains to be done. Housing inspections take up the majority of my time and, wherever possible, repairs are effected. Due to the standstill of repairs during the last war, however, many houses have sadly deteriorated. If owners can be persuaded, in face of rising labour and materials costs, to do repairs these are done but many times the costs become prohibitive and the Council are faced with the unsatisfactory position of having to make Demolition Orders. This position will continue without doubt until legislation regarding rents is altered.

### 2. Repairs and Maintenance

During the year a total of 76 houses were inspected for housing defects, involving 105 separate inspections. Of these, six were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. The rest were considered as satisfactory if repairs were carried out. Of these, 53 have been rendered fit by informal action, 16 are in process of being so rendered fit and in one case it was necessary to serve a Statutory Notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, before the repairs were done.

In the case of the first six houses Demolition Orders were made. This year eleven houses have been demolished on account of Demolition Orders and five were still outstanding at the end of the year.

An house to house inspection has not been possible in recent years and I do not anticipate that such a thing could be done without interfering with other essential work, desirable as it may be.

### 3. Overcrowding

As mentioned in the previous paragraph no house to house inspection has been possible, in consequence, no reliable information exists as to the full state of overcrowding in the district. During the year, however, 35 new cases of overcrowding were discovered. An estimated 61 cases of overcrowding were dealt with by the Council housing new tenants, effecting in all a total of 239 persons.

### 4. Verminous Conditions

Having already mentioned vermin under a previous heading, I will not dwell on the subject but I am of the opinion that it should be mentioned here because it is not the practice at present to disinfest furniture which is likely to be verminous prior to a new Council house being occupied. I do think this is a subject to which the Committee concerned should give due consideration.

## FOOD INSPECTION

It is this Authority's duty to protect the public against the marketing of unsound food and thus is one of the most useful services provided. To aid this the Council have this year adopted Bye-laws dealing with the "Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air". These bye-laws are certainly a vast improvement on previous legislation and, if adhered to, will improve conditions throughout the district.

### 5. Milk

In this district we have six licensed retailers of "Pasteurised" milk, three retailers of "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk, and eight retailers of "Sterilized" milk.

Throughout the district the retailing of raw milk has diminished until, at the end of the year, this had died out altogether. It has not been necessary throughout the year to take any action under any act.



## 2. Ice Cream

Frequent inspections were carried out at the premises of the only producer in the district. Often it has been necessary to suggest improvements which have now been questioned and always carried out. Modern plant has been installed and a thorough check can now be kept on all parts of the processing.

There has been an increase in the number of registrations, thirteen now being on the register. This is due to the fact that a number of shops have now installed automatic refrigerators and are supplied daily or very frequently with well known brands of pre-packed ice-cream.

## 3. Meat Inspection

The Ministry of Food's collecting and slaughtering centres still operate in the Borough of Pontefract and serves retailers in this district. The Knottingley Depot at which the meat arrives is on premises in Chapel Street. All the meat is inspected at the place of slaughter by the Pontefract Sanitary Inspectors but this does not prevent me going to the depot at Knottingley and inspecting what comes into this district.

As far as can be ascertained, there does not appear to be any change of policy with regard to centralised slaughtering. I, for one, should be sorry to lose it as I am sure a much more efficient inspection of meat can be carried out. I anticipate that, sometime in the future, the Ministry of Food will relinquish their control and it would be an excellent thing if Authorities who do not possess a central slaughterhouse would then consider running one.

We have one registered slaughterhouse in the district which deals solely with the slaughter of horses for human consumption. It is one of my duties to see that each and every carcass is given a post mortem examination after which, if satisfactory, it is officially stamped, if unsatisfactory, the meat is slashed, the stamp withheld and the meat coloured. All such meat is transported to other districts as there are no licensed retailers of horsemeat in Knottingley. Improvements have taken place on the premises, notably the concreting of the whole yard and structural repairs to the buildings.

During the year there have been 59 horses slaughtered which is a decrease compared with last year's figures.

## 4. Other Foods

Whilst the three commodities already mentioned are singled out for special attention there are other foods which come in for inspection during the normal course of general inspection duties, or as the need arises. These foods include canned goods, fish and grocery products.

Due to rationing, I am often called in by retailers to condemn foodstuffs which, in past years, the retailer would have rejected himself. In such cases a Certificate is handed to the retailer which enables him to obtain a replacement of the goods affected. The food thus condemned, unless rationed, is either destroyed by me or, after suitable treatment, used for animal feeding. Rationed foodstuffs affected must, by Regulation, return to the producer through normal trade channels.

## 5. Food Premises

Section 13, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, lays down the main hygienic conditions to be observed in most types of premises where foodstuffs are produced, stored or sold. As already mentioned this Section is also supplemented by recent Bye-laws. Quite a lot of time has been spent in inspections in this sphere and I am looking forward to the days when a concentrated campaign can take place to cover all types of food premises, factories, warehouses, shops, restaurants, canteens etc.

On the whole there is little to grumble about regarding the shops etc., which have come within my inspections so far. The main trouble seems to be the lack of proper hand washing facilities. Other faults have been encountered too but in no case has it been necessary to resort to Statutory Action.

## Canal Boats

Four additional canal boats have been registered this year which now brings the total registered to 56. All canal boats passing through the district may be inspected, whether registered here or not. Periodical inspections do take place but, owing to pressure of work in other directions, only infrequently.

## Canal Boats (continued)

Larger districts, however, have specialised Canal Boat Inspectors so it is hardly likely that boats passing through this district are escaping inspection by some Authority.

During the year no contravention of any Regulation has taken place nor were there any notifications of Infectious Disease on Canal Boats.

### Statement of Particulars furnished pursuant to Article 18 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Number and nature of inspections made by the writer during 1950:-

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Public Health Act, 1936.</u>	
Regulated Premises Inspections:	
Moveable dwellings and sites.....	9
Offensive trades.....	25
Statutory Nuisance Inspections:	
Initial Inspections.....	134
Other Inspections.....	286
Atmospheric Pollution:	
Industrial smoke observations.....	2
Visits to boiler plants.....	4
Vermineous Infestation Inspections:	
Dwellinghouses - Council.....	3
Private.....	12
Other premises or articles.....	5
Infectious disease, etc. Enquiries.....	94
General Sanitation and Drainage Inspections:	
Nuisances - not statutory -	
Initial inspections.....	173
Other inspections.....	94
Other Sanitary Defects:	
Initial inspections.....	30
Other inspections.....	17
<u>Factories Act, 1937.</u>	
Inspections for Sanitary Conditions:	
Factories with mechanical power.....	21
Factories without mechanical power.....	3
Inspections for Means of Escape in case of Fire.....	6
<u>Shops Act, 1934.</u>	
Total shops visited.....	62
Inspections made.....	87
<u>Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
Housing Conditions:	
Inspections for housing defects.....	105
Houses inspected.....	76
Inspections for compliance with notices.....	253
Overcrowding:	
Case investigations.....	35
Council Housing:	
Visits to tenants of Council Houses to ascertain home conditions.....	28
Miscellaneous enquiries.....	3



Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Meat Inspection:	
Visits to depot and slaughterhouses.....	36
Visits to shops etc. for meat inspection.....	3
Milk Supplies:	
Investigation of production methods.....	7
Investigation of distribution methods.....	17
Ice-Cream:	
Investigations regarding manufacture.....	16
Investigations regarding retailing.....	13
Other Foods:	
Visits to shops etc. for food inspection.....	19
Food Premises Inspections:	
Cowsheds.....	7
Dairies.....	17
Rooms under Food and Drugs Act, Section 13.....	38
Knackers Yard Inspections.....	12

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Inspection of premises.....	28
Inspections during treatments.....	24

Miscellaneous Inspections.

Schools.....	2
Refuse Tips.....	68
Sewage Disposal Works.....	26

Number of Notices Served and the Result of Service

Act and Section concerned	No. of informal notices						No. of Statutory Notices					
	Outstanding from 1949	Served in 1950	Total of A and B	Complied with	Not complied with		Outstanding from 1949	Served in 1950	Total of G and H	Complied with	Work done by L.A. in default	Outstanding at end of 1950
					Statutory Notice served in 1950	Outstanding at end of 1950						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Public Health Act, 1936	13	112	125	97	9	19	-	9	9	8	-	1
Housing Act, 1936	14	70	84	53	1	30	-	1	1	1	-	-
Factories Act, 1937	1	3	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Department

The staff remains as in previous years, a Sanitary Inspector and a Clerk employed part-time in this department and part-time in the Clerk to the Council's department.

Office accommodation was improved during the year when the extensions to the Town Hall were completed.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

K. WHITELEY, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

September, 1951.





